TO: Dr. Marvin Crumbs

FROM: Rebecca Antrobius

RE: New Study Abroad Program

In order to assist Columbus High School in achieving its mission of creating well-rounded contributing members of society, I am proposing to make a summer study abroad program available to our students. Such a program would expand the learning process beyond the four walls of the classroom, and help create global citizens that are culturally aware of the world around them. The proposed summer program will consist of a five week stay in Salamanca Spain at The University of Salamanca’s Center of International Courses. The University of Salamanca was built and founded in 1218, and is one of Europe’s oldest universities. The city center and adjacent university has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I believe that exposing our students to the rich architecture, culture, history, and traditions of Spain, would plant the seed for a lifelong love of learning.

Students will attend classes Monday–Friday from 8am-2pm. They will be able to receive full credit for Spanish language courses as well as AP credit for art history, Spanish literature, Spanish language, and European history. This should allow participating students to focus on their STEM courses and standardized test scores during the regular school year. In fact, this trip could actually help students improve their scores on the next round of standardized testing. There are many studies that link foreign language learning to improved test scores. According to a 1974 study done by Margaret Buck, Wallace Lambert, and Richard Tucker, people who are competent in more than one language consistently outscore monolinguals on tests of both mathematical and verbal intelligence.

A team of three Columbus High School teachers will organize, supervise all aspects of the trip and chaperone the students. Parent chaperones are also welcome to be part of the trip. During the four weekends the students are in Spain, they will be going on excursions to culturally, and historically significant sites throughout the country. These weekend excursions will be led by Columbus High School Instructors. Students will be staying and receiving their meals at the Hernán Cortés Campus Residence on the grounds of the University of Salamanca. Teachers and parent chaperones will be staying there as well. The total cost of the trip is $4,176 per student. This price includes roundtrip airfare, all meals, tuition, lodging, and transportation to and from weekend excursions. Because this is an optional trip, each individual student will be required to pay the full $4,176. However, The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese has two scholarships available for deserving students that can prove financial hardship. The only cost to the school would be to cover the expenses for the Columbus High School teachers that will be chaperoning the trip. The total cost for these expenses will be $9,300. However, I have a lot of experience writing grants that could possibly lower the expenses that would be incurred by our school. At your convenience, please contact me so that we might discuss the details of this proposal. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Antrobius